RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 26th February, 2009/7 Phalguna, 1930 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 141.

Development of infrastructure and connectivity

*141. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:††

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aw1that development of infrastructure and connectivity is the single most important factor to remove regional disparities;

(b) whether Government has formulated certain specific anti-poverty programmes with focus on infrastructure and connectivity especially with reference to Orissa and Jharkhand States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Development of infrastructure and connectivity is one of the important factors to remove regional disparity.

(b) and (c) Government has formulated special programmes for:—

Rural electrification, rural telephony, augmentation of irrigation facilities, rural housing and rural connectivity under specific programmes like Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, (RGGVY), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and programme under Bharat Nirman Even through, National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is more for wage employment, rural assets are also created under this programme. Under Backward Regional

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Ms. Mabel Rebello.

Grant Fund (BRGF) Government is providing funds for infrastructure development and capacity building in selected backward districts of the country. All these programmes address the issue of poverty in rural areas and regional disparities through improvement in infrastructure and connectivity. All these programmes are implemented in the States of Jharkhand and Orissa. A summary of achievement of these key programmes in Jharkhand and Orissa is given below:—

Programme	Jharkhand		Orissa	
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
PMGSY (Kms. completed cumulative)	—	2927.51 upto Dec., 08	—	9830.70 upto Dec., 08
NREGA (Empl. to households)	1679868	1297853 upto 11.02.2009	1100497	818154 upto 11.02.2009
IAY (Houses constructed)	45936	30890 upto 1.12.2008	140853	15758 upto 1.12.2008

The cumulative physical progress and financial releases under Bharat Nirman upto February, 2009 for Jharkhand and Orissa are indicated in the tables:—

JHARKHAND

The Cumulative Physical Progress and Financial releases under the Bharat Nirman Programme till February, 2009

Sl. No.	Component	Overall target	Overall achievement upto Feb., 2009	Percentage achievement	Balance to be achieved	Cumulative central release upto Feb., 2009 (Rs. cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Irrigation (In Th. Hectare)	334.36	51.139	15.295	283.221	19.267 (upto Feb., 2009
2.	Drinking Water (No. of Habitations)					
	(a) Not Covered	0	0		0	329.83
	(b) Slipped Back	17225	17005	98.723	220	(upto Sept.
	(c) Quality Affected	168	997	593.452	0	2008)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Roads					209.53
	(a) Habitations to connected	3877	328	8.460	3549	
	(b) Upgradation	6219.879	3250.08	52.253	2969.80	
	(c) New connectivity (in Km.)	7777.777	1139.78	14.654	6638	
4.	No. of houses (incl. IAY)	Demand Driven	158443			310.03
5.	Electrification				0	1280.74
	No. of Villages	21695	967	4.457	20728	(upto Sept., 2008)
	No. of BPL Households					
6.	Telephone connectivity (No. of Villages)	1694	1476	87.131	218	1.379 (upto Dec., 2008)

ORISSA

The Cumulative Physical Progress and Financial releases under the Bharat Nirman Programme till February, 2009

Sl. No.	Component	Overall target	Overall achievement upto Feb., 2009	Percentage achievement	Balance to be achieved	Cumulative Central release upto Feb., 2009 (Rs. cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Irrigation (In Th. Hectare)	331.94	180.832	54.48	151.108	1179.038
2.	Drinking Water (No. of Habitations)					
	(a) Not Covered	0	0		0	733.79
	(b) Slipped Back	14900	39902	267.80	0	(upto Jan. 2009)
	(c) Quality Affected	32254	12482	38.70	19772	
3.	Roads					2225.53
	(a) Habitations to connected	4447	1184	26.62	3263	
	(b) Upgradation	14161.16	3050.24	21.54	11110.92	
	(c) New connectivity (in Km.)	993.35	4840.15	48.43	5153.20	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	No. of houses (incl. IAY)	Demand Driven	272106			634.42
5.	Electrification No. of Villages No. of BPL Households	9326	788 63714	8.45	8538	907.12 (upto Sept., 2008)
6.	Telephone connectivity (No. of Villages)	4899	2330	47.56	2569	4.695 (upto Dec., 2008)

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, recently said that disparity among States' infrastructure is responsible for all the problems in the country.

Sir, Jharkhand has the poorest road connectivity in the country. Only eight per cent of habitations are connected by road. Only 36 per cent of villages have got cutcha roads, not even pukka roads.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the supplementary question?

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I am coming to supplementary question. Road length per 100 sq. km. in the country is 72 km. In Jharkhand, it is only 21 km. National Highways are 1,845 km, out of which 833 km are single roads having width of three metres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please don't make a statement, ask the supplementary question.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, I have to make a little bit of introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, there are no four-lane highways in Jharkhand. In view of this and in view of the fact that 20 districts out of 24 are naxal affected, will the hon. Minister give Jharkhand a special package, so that the infrastructure in Jharkhand can be brought on a par with the rest of India?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the hon. Member raised a very valid question relating to road connectivity in Jharkhand. Sir, under the Bharat Nirman, the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana is one of the schemes implemented by the Government of India. Under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, Rs. 2,105 crore has been allotted by the Government of India covering 8,164 km. The work completed is 2,927 km. This year, 2009-10, the Government of India further allocated up to. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, he is reading it from the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, he is not giving the relevant reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, he is reading the answer from the written reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, on allocation of fund, I have to read it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, as far as road connectivity in Jharkhand is concerned, we agree with the hon. Member on it to a certain extent. But, Sir, the whole problem, which we found, as far as the Bharat Nirman is concerned, is this. I have visited some of the States. I would like to tell the hon. Member that the fund goes from the Government of India to the States for various schemes whether it is road connectivity or whether it is Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is for the State Government to properly utilise the money under the scheme.

It has to be done by the States. Some States have utilised it properly. Some States have not utilised it properly. That is the situation. As far as the special package, which the hon. Member is referring to, is concerned, if the proposal comes to us, the Government of India will consider it.

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Sir, in some of the districts in Jharkhand, 75 per cent of the people are Below the Poverty Line. These are, Gumla, Lohardaga, Simdega, Khunti, etc. Assured irrigation there is only seven per cent. The answer that has been given here says that only 15 per cent of the targeted irrigation potential is achieved. Most of the people have single crop and that also depends on rain. If rain fails that crop also fails. There are so many schemes. Jharkhand has so much of land and the rainfall is 1400 cm. Is the Government thinking of doing something for Jharkhand, so that roads, electricity, agriculture may be improved, so that the people will not go all over the country as domestic servants? Some of those who go as domestic servants fall in flesh trade. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he is going to do for the poor people of Jharkhand, so that the disparities are not there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not an occasion for a speech. Please. I must caution the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, answers are not given properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the answer is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. MABEL REBELLO: Sir, it relates to poorer States. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid, the hon. Member will resume her place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your place.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I don't know what the hon. Member is objecting to. Sir, I will have to refer to the figures from the document. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. I am cautioning the hon. Member.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: As far as the irrigation potential is concerned, yes. Sir, as far as the tribal areas are concerned, 90 per cent of the funds are provided by the Central Government and 10 per cent is the State kitty. We received complaint that most of the States are not giving their 10 per cent kitty to the Government of India for the purpose of implementing the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. Sir, my submission is that as far as this irrigation programme is concerned, both the Central Government and the State Government have to join together for implementing the irrigation scheme. Here, I would also like to submit that the Government of India has given money for various irrigation schemes as far as Jharkhand is concerned. I request the hon. Member, who comes from Jharkhand, to give 10 per cent of their share so that the funds can be released immediately. I also agree that as far as the irrigation scheme... *(Interruptions)*... Sir, since the hon. Member is mentioning it is like that, I have given the figures to the hon. Member. It is there in the column. I assure this august House that the scheme which is given by the Government of Jharkhand, the Central Government will definitely help the State Government because it is one of the States which is backward.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the financial allocation should correspond to the physical performance. I don't know what is going to be the mechanism available to review the physical performance corresponding to the financial allocations. Sir, I now come to the specific question. As far as the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is concerned, I mean, to provide employment, it is well taken. I am inclined to ask the hon. Minister as to whether he has come across in various places including Tamil Nadu that big, big machinery like bulldozers, cranes and forklifts are being employed instead of using mannual labour to do a particular job. But, books are written and accounts are prepared in such a way to show that it is being done by human labour. Did you come across that kind of activity?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the supplementary please? Again, I am saying that please do not make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, resume your place. Dr. Malaisamy, one minute. Please listen to me. Please ask your supplementary relating to the question and the answer given. Don't deviate from it.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, they have mentioned about the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. It has come as a reply. That is why I am referring to that. Sir, I will never go beyond the question. I will never ask anything irrelevant. I speak with authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I speak with authority. I am specifically referring to my friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Which friend you are referring to? Are you referring to the question or not? That will not go on record.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, I am referring to the question. Sir, my question is: Has the Minister come across instances of the work being done by machinery under the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme which is supposed to be done only by workers? Instead, it is being done by machinery and accounts are put up in such a way to show that it is done by men. Is it correct or not?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is concerned, it is one of the major flagship programmes of the Government of India. Sir, we are proud to say that because the rural poor, especially the people who are living below the poverty line, are getting direct benefit of the scheme. People are doing 7 hours work at the rate of Rs. 80/- per day. Hundred days job is guaranteed for them under the scheme, and it has been well received by various State Governments and the people of the rural areas. The allocation made by the Government of India has been increasing every year. Sir, in 2007-08, Rs. 12959.40 crores were allocated for the whole country and the employment generated was about 33.9 crore people. Now in 2008-09, Rs. 23385 crores have been allocated, that is, a quantum jump has been made by the Government of India so that the rural people should not go without getting any employment to sustain their livelihood.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Minister, that is not the question. The question is not the machinery. Work is being done by the machines. But in the record, it is shown to have been done manually. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let him complete.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, as a Minister of State for Planning, I have visited some States to review the NREGA programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana because I had received complaints from the villagers about which the hon. Member has mentioned. If you want, I will mention the names of the States also.Bulldozers are being used there and in the record it has been shown that people have done the manual job. Immediately, I ordered an inquiry. I had a meeting there and we rectified it there on the spot itself. Apart from that, I would like to submit one thing. With regard to these flagship programmes, all the hon.

Members coming from all the States have a role to play. They should see to it and tell the State Governments that the money given by the Government of India for the rural poor to get employment, that money reaches them under various schemes.

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Sir, I am asking a very specific question. I am not making a statement. Sir, in his reply, the Minister has mentioned about the electrification of number of villages and the number of BPL households, the overall target was 21695, and the target achieved up to February, 2009 is 967, that is only 4.4 per cent. What is the target? By what time he is expecting that they will get the electrification?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, as far as the rural electrification is concerned, I agree with the hon. Member because it had to be completed by 2009, but it did not go well because some public sector undertakings have been given the job of doing it, and there was a delay in carrying out the work. There is a thinking going on in the Government to extend the period to achieve the target that has been given here. Therefore, instead of 2009, we may go for some more time so that we are able to achieve the target of rural electrification in the country.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ, जैसा उन्होंने कहा है कि राज्यों की ओर से योगदान करना चाहिए, तो जब झारखंड में प्रेसिडेंट रूल है वहां उन्होंने कितना योगदान किया है? यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the table which I have given, in that I have mentioned about the allocation of funds, the release of funds and the implementation by the State Government. As far as Jharkhand is concerned, Jharkhand is under the President's Rule for the last one-and-a-half months. Earlier, the elected Government was there and we persuaded the State Government to send the proposals. We received some proposals from Jharkhand for various schemes. We have not received proposals from the other State Governments and we are pursuing the matter with those State Governments so that we will be able to allocate more funds for Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. All these areas which are covered by the tribal areas, the Government of India is paying more attention and more money will be provided to those State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Question No. 142., Miss Anusuiya Uikey.

कोयला खानों में छत के धंसने (रूफ फाल) की घटना

†*142. **सुश्री अनुसुइया उइके**: क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले दिनों कन्हान क्षेत्र के छिंदवाड़ा जिले की मोआरी खान में छत के धंसने (रूफ फाल) की घटना हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) छत के धंसने से हुए नुकसान का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा इस नुकसान की लागत कितनी है;

(घ) क्या ऐसी घटनाओं की संभावना का पता लगाने अथवा इसकी चेतावनी देने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है और क्या इस प्रकार की घटनाओं को रोक पाना संभव नहीं है; और

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.